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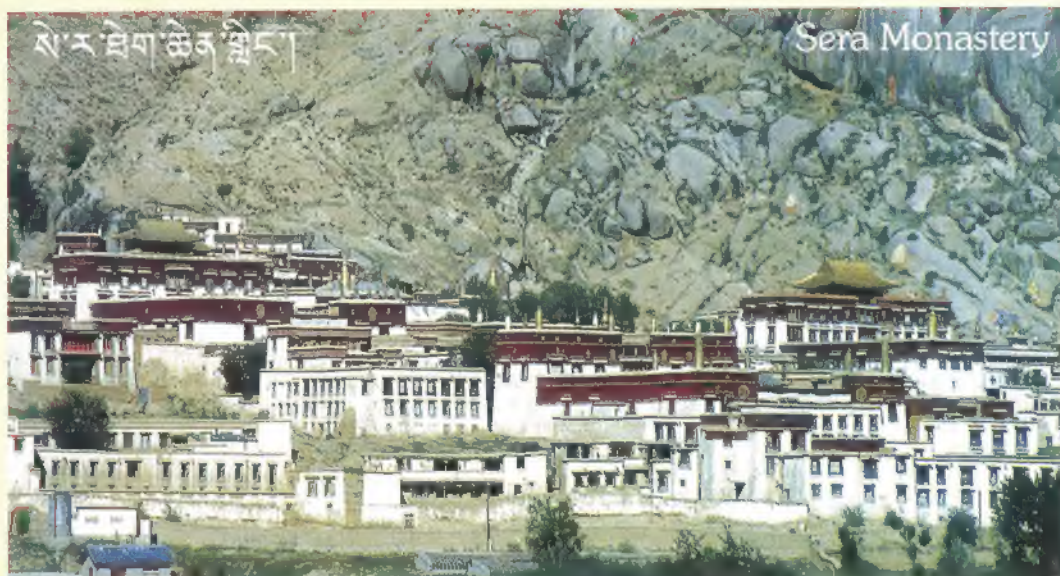


SERA MEY MONASTIC UNIVERSITY



A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

SERA MEY DRATSANG CULTURAL SOCIETY (R)
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Sera Monastery in Tibet



Sera Monastery in India



2010



1990

1975



Winter Debate Session - 2009



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SERA MEY DRATSANG CULTURAL SOCIETY (R)

Registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960 No 2/1987-88 Dated 01.04.87

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Ref. _____

Date _____

Preface

Teachings of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama is spreading the world over like rays of the full moon. Due to the wide spread Buddhist teaching programs of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and other masters there is an increased global interest in Tibetan religion and culture; furthermore there is an increasing interest about Tibetan dialectics. Therefore, Sera Mey Thoesam Norling Monastery (one of the branches of Sera Thekchen Ling Monastic University) will be publishing along with all their associated valuable religious sects and monasteries, an overview from the year 2011 dedicated towards all our friends, sponsors, potential donors, vast global audience both Tibetans and Non-Tibetans.

Simultaneously, we would like to extend our Long Life prayers for His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, for the cause of Tibetans, for the wellbeing and happiness of all our sponsors, donors and to fulfil the existing and final wishes of all mother sentient beings.

Sera Mey Monastery
19th December, 2011



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BUDDHA



Perfectly arisen through the compassionate wish to benefit beings,
And more exalted even than the gods, you have reached the supreme level of protection,
renunciation, realization and for guiding beings to liberation through teachings on dependent
origination Mighty Shakyamuni, sun among teachers, in devotion I pay homage to you!

HIS EMINENCE THE 10th PENCHEN RINPOCHE CHOEKYI GYALTSEN



ཡུན་ཤིག་ལ་བཅའ་སྤྱོད་བཅུ་པའི་ཉིན་ཚེས་ཀྱི་རྒྱལ་མཚན་མཆོག་

H. H. the 10th Panchen Lama Irtini Choekyi Gyaltsen

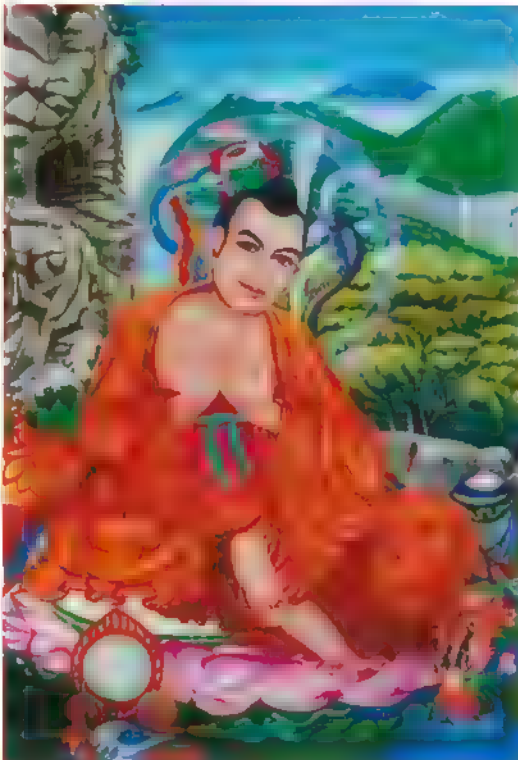
The Spread of Buddhism in India

You who, through compassion and skillful means took birth in the Shakya Clan.
You who, vanquished the host of evil that others could not conquer.
Your body is radiant like a mountain of gold.
I prostrate to you, the king of Shakya.

By reciting the reception praise to Lord Buddha, who has:

- 1) First awakened the resolve to attain enlightenment.
- 2) In the middle, fully perfected the accumulation of merit and wisdom to become the protector of sentient beings.
- 3) In the end, achieved enlightenment at Bodh-Gaya and blessed all the sentient beings with his teachings upon his turning the wheel of dharma thrice.

Nagarjuna Gonpo Ludrub






You brilliantly clarified the meaning of reality itself,
the ultimate intent of the Mother Prajnaparamita,
With profound modes of logical reasoning based
on dependent origination,
Founder of the Middle Way tradition of the supreme vehicle,
prophesied by the Buddha himself
Noble master Nagarjuna, to you I pray!

Aryadeva Phagpa Lha



You were the foremost of his spiritual heirs,
supremely learned and accomplished.
A master of all the infinite schools of philosophy inside
and outside your own tradition,
And the glorious crowning jewel of all who follow
Nagarjuna's approach
Bodhisattva Aryadeva, to you I pray!

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

	<p style="text-align: center;">With the First Turning of the wheel of Dharma</p> <p>Lord Buddha blessed all the sentient beings with his first teaching on the "Four Noble Truths" to his five excellent disciples at Varanasi.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">With the Second Turning of the wheel of Dharma</p> <p>Lord Buddha taught what consists primarily of Mahayana teachings, at Rajagriha on Vulture Peak Mountain and transmitted the Prajnaparamita Sutras, the Sutras of Transcendent Knowledge.</p> <p>During this time, Buddha emphasized on the teachings of egolessness, selflessness, or emptiness. Lord Buddha simply presented the idea of the self being free from such imputations as permanence and inherent existence. He taught that there is no permanent, solid individual ego or self-nature. Lord Buddha also presented the teachings on bodhichitta, which literally means enlightened attitude or awakened heart.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">With The Third Turning of the wheel of Dharma</p> <p>The third turning took place with the teachings of Lord Buddha in various cities, beginning in Vaishali. At this time, Lord Buddha emphasized the teachings on Buddha Nature, or tathatagarbha, which reveals that complete enlightenment, is within our hearts, right from the beginning.</p>

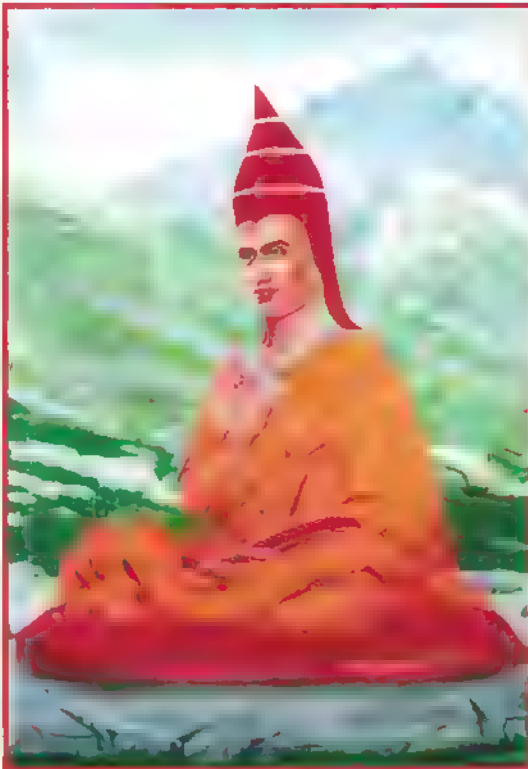
A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

Finally, at the end of his teaching, Lord Buddha went to Kushinagar, a beautiful forest in northern India not far from the border of Nepal.

On full-moon night which was also his eightieth birthday, when the time of his passing drew near, Lord Buddha asked Ananda to prepare a bed between two salwa trees. Then he lay there, reclining on his right side, facing west, with his head supported by his hand, and prepared for his Mahaparinirvana.

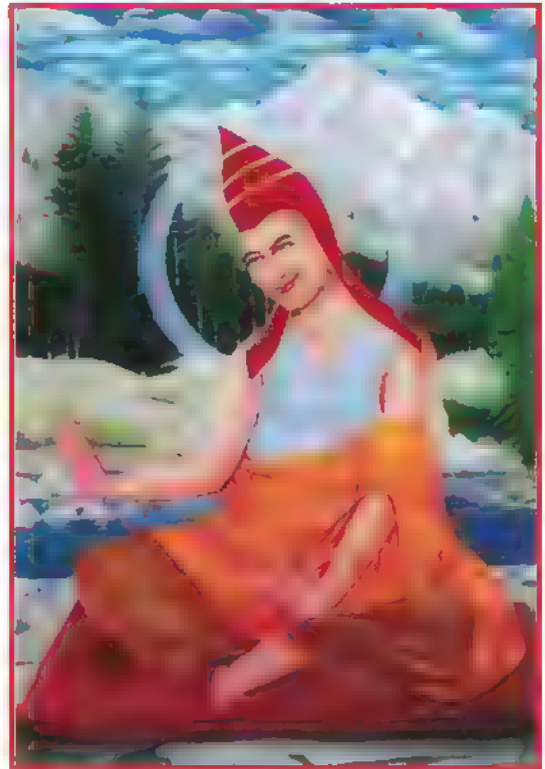
After Lord Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana, his disciples held three councils to record transmit and form the Cannons of Buddha's teachings.

Asanga Thogme



Guided and cared for by Maitreya, you worked brilliantly to
further all the Mahayana teachings,
And skilfully set out the approach of vast conduct,
Founder of the tradition of Mind Only, prophesied by
the Buddha
Noble master Asanga, to you I pray!

Vasubandhu Yignven



You upheld the tradition of the seven treatises of
Abhidharma and twofold emptiness,
And clarified the philosophies of Vaibhashika, Sautrantika
and Vijnanavada,
Most excellent of scholars, renowned as a second
all-knowing Buddha Acharya Vasubandhu, to you I pray!

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

The first council: Was held after a year of Lord Buddha's passing into Mahaparinirvana, Ananda recited the collection Sutra teachings and held the first council at Rajagriha sponsored by the King Ajatasatru.

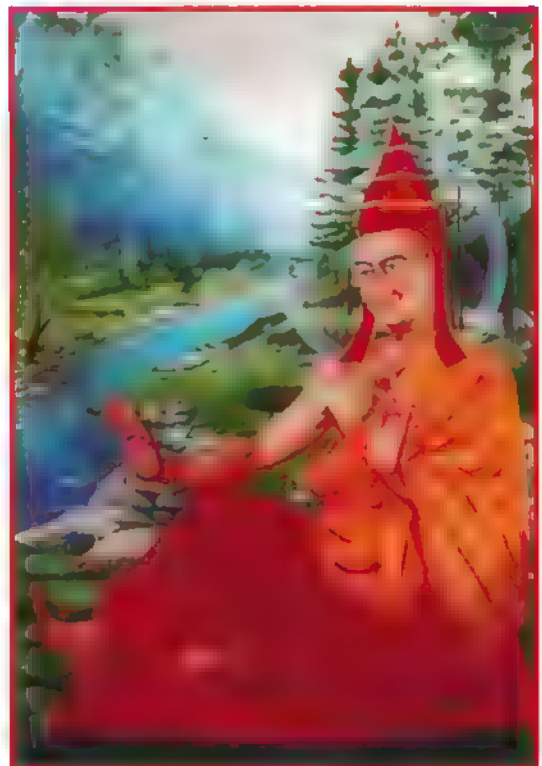
The second council: was held 110 or 160 years after Buddha's passing into mahaparinirvana at Vaisali sponsored by King Ashoka. At that time, monks, especially from Magadha, transgressing their vows were expelled and thus the code of monastic discipline was revised.

Dignaga Choglang



Master logician who granted the eyes of intelligent reasoning, By revealing hundreds of ways to arrive at valid cognition, Illuminating the Buddha's teachings with incontrovertible logic
Noble Dignaga, at your feet I pray!

Dharmakirti Choedrag



You understood entirely all areas of logic, both inside and outside your own tradition, And, through the path of reasoning, brought a definitive knowledge of the profound and vast approaches of Sautrantika and Mind Only, Skillfully conveying the marvelous approaches offered by the Dharma
Glorious Dharmakirti, at your feet I pray!

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

The third council: was held at Pataliputra, during the reign of King Kanishka 400 years after Lord Buddha's passing into mahaparinirvana. The purpose of this council was to defeat contend of eighteen chiefs and to create harmony amongst the different schools of the Buddhist philosophy. As written in Togay Barba, the Mahayana Buddhist Council was held by Bodhisatva Samantabhadra. The two pioneers of Mahayana Buddhist, Nagarjuna and Asanga were born after 400 and 600 or 900 years of Lord Buddha's Mahaparinirvana.

Gunaprabha Yonten Woe



You brilliantly summarized the meaning
of the vast Vinaya collection,
According to the tradition of the Sarvastivadins,
And explained the Pratimoksha superbly
and without mistake
Supremely disciplined and learned
Gunaprabha, at your feet I pray!

Shakyaprabha Shakya Woe



You gained the precious treasure-like
qualities of the threefold training,
And brilliantly explained the meaning
of the extensive scriptures, in order to preserve the
flawless teachings of monastic discipline
Supreme holder of the
Vinaya, Shakyaprabha, at your feet I pray!

The Spread of Buddhism in Tibet

The Abbot Shantarakshita, Master Padmasambhava and dharma king Trisong Deutsen; pioneered the spread of Buddhism in Tibet. This was a glorious period during the reign of Lhathori Nyentsen.



Abbot Shantarakshita Guru Padmasambhava King Trisong Deutsen

The successful spread of the Buddhist religion in Tibet was largely the result of the efforts of the great King Songtsen Gampo who embraced and spread Buddhism. King Trisong Deutsen reinforced the spread of Buddhism in Tibet by inviting the great teachers Shankarashita and Padmasambhava to Tibet. In year 810, he erected the great monastery of Samye and established the section of monks and spread the Buddhist religion. Buddhism in Tibet was flourishing up to the time of King Triralpachen's successor. In year 815, he established two different sections of monks comprising of (a) the locked hair section, versed in the Tantra cult of Buddhism and the other, (b) a section of ordained monks.



Jho Ngog Drom Sum

Jho Je Palden Atisha Dipamkara Shrijñana was a great Indian master and scholar, and author of many texts including “the Lamp for the Path of Awakening”. One of the main teachers at the famous university of

Three Famous Teachers in Tibet



Vikramashila, he was also a strict follower of the monastic rule and was widely acclaimed for the purity of his teaching. On the request of Lha Lama Yeshi Woe and Jangchub Woe, he visited Tibet in year 1039 and spent ten years of his life in Tibet, teaching and translating texts, and was instrumental in strengthening Buddhism there after a period of persecution. His disciples **Ngog Legpay Sherab** and **Dromton Gyalway Jungney** founded the Kadampa's school in Tibet. They are three famous teachers in Tibet known as **Jho Ngog Drom Soom**.

Je Yabse Sum

Je Tsongkhapa with his two chief disciples Gyaltsab Je and Khedrup Je are known as Je Yabse Soom. Je Tsongkha the founder of Gelugpa tradition in Tibet was born in year 1357. At the age of sixteen he came to Utsang region for his studies on Buddhist philosophy. In year 1409, he founded Gaden Monastery and established the first Gelugpa tradition in Tibet.



Tsongkhapa, great master pioneer of the land of snows,
Gyaltsabje, great master of the fully comprehended doctrine,
Khedrubje, great master of the teachings of Sutra and Tantric,
I pay homage to you three, "Great Master and Disciples".

You are Avalokitesvara, great treasure of compassion not aiming at true existence,
And Manjusri, master of flawless wisdom,
As well as Vajrapani, destroyer of horde of demons without exception
O Tsongkhapa, crown jewel of the sages of the Land of Snows,
Lobsang Dragpa, I make requests at your feet.

History of Sera Mey Monastery.



Kunkhen Jangchup Bhumpa

Sera monastery, one of the largest Gelugpa Monastery was founded by Jamchen Choeje Shakya Yeshe, the great disciple of Lama Tsongkhapa in the year 1419. Prior to this there were four different monasteries known as Sera Todpa Monastery, Sera Mey Monastery, Gya Monastery and Drom Monastery. Sera Mey Monastery was founded by Kunkhen Jangchup Bhumpa or Janchup Woesser

(1377-1443), one of the seven great disciples of Lama Tsongkhapa, in the Year of the Iron Ox of the Tibetan Royal Calendar corresponding to the year 1421.

**His Eminence the 15th
reincarnation of
Kunkhen Jangchup Bhumpa**

Kunkhen Jangchup Bhumpa was one the Abbot of Sera Mey Monastery appointed by Sera Monastery's Abbot Gungru Gyaltsen Sangpo who was heading four different monasteries. After that from Yu Tsondu Sangpo to Pobhor Yangten Sangpo there have been seventy nine Abbots, these Abbots lead the monastery from year 1419 to 1959.



**Woesser Rinpoche
Tenzin Yeshe Gyaltsen**

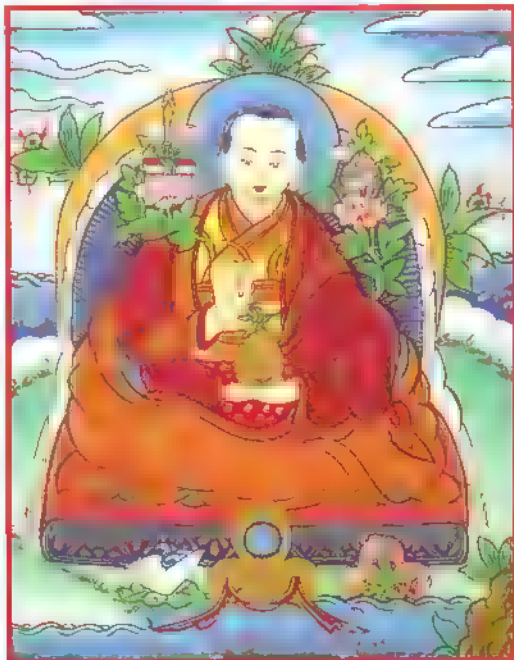


Sera Mey Monastery in Tibet

Khedrup, Tenpa, Dhargyal (1493-1568)



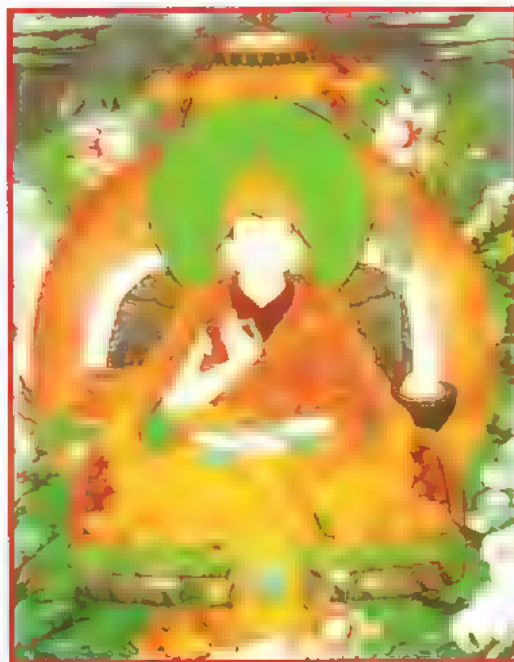
To the Sangha Group, blessed with the knowledge having qualities of
awareness and liberation, akin to being a large store of precious jewels
You have unshakable commitment to generously explain the Buddha Dharma.
And also you are fully fortified with clear knowledge
I pray to you, the teacher having the power of the Nagas.



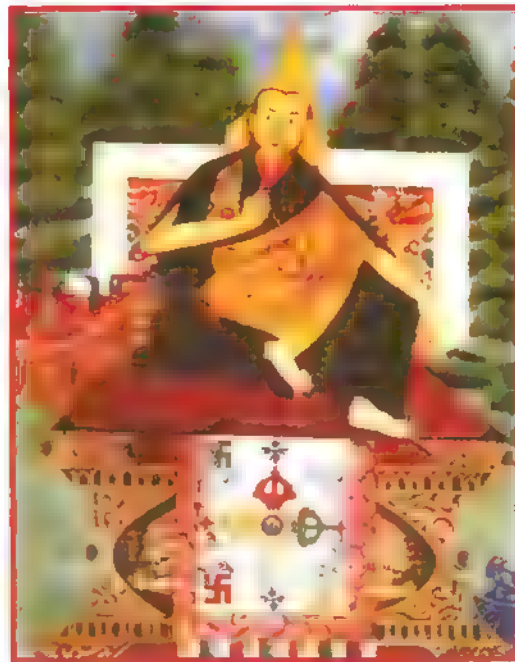
Desi Sangyal Gyatso



Tsemonling



Penchen Lodoe Legsang



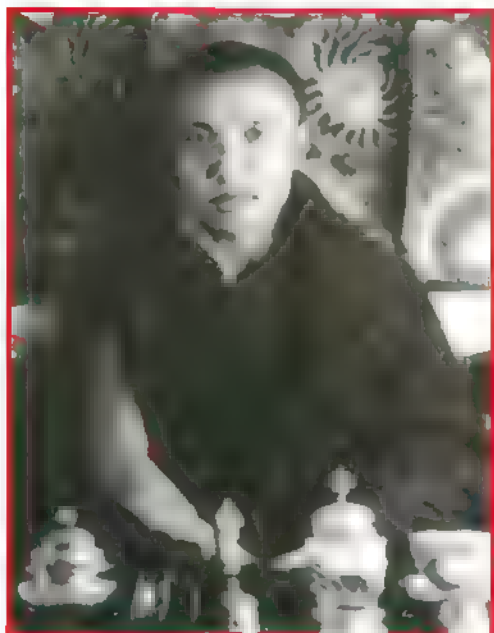
Jetsun Dragpa Shedrup



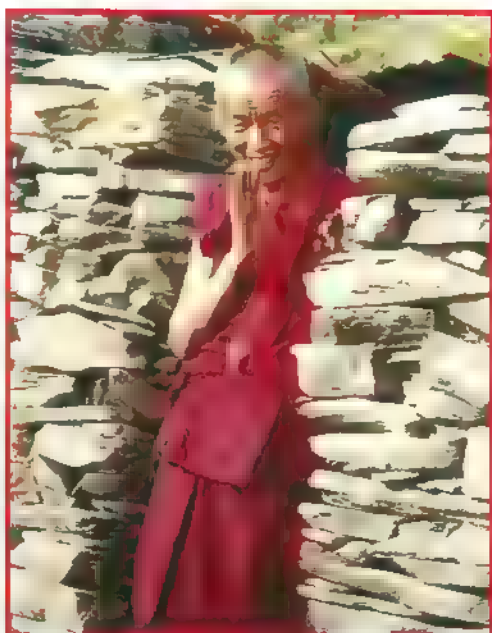
Kyabje Lhatsun Dorjee Chang



**Kyabje Phabonkha
Jampa Trinley Gyatso**



Dhunkar Rinpoche Lobsang Trinley



Geshe Yeshe Tobdhen

There are many Holy Incarnate Masters of Sera Mey Monastery, the following are to name a few:

1	Gungru Gyaltsen Sangpo
2	Kunkhen Jangchup Bhumpa
3	Khedrup Gedun Tenpa Dhargyal "The Holder of 19th Gaden Throne".
4	Desi Sangye Gyatso
5	Tsemonling
6	Penchen Lodoe Leksang
7	Jetsun Dragpa Shedrup
8	Gyalwang Trinley Namgyal
9	Ara Drubthop Tharpe Gyaltsen
10	Sharchen Ngawang Tsultrim
11	Panglung Lobsang Thugje
12	Kyabje Lhatsun Dorje Chang
13	Phabongkha Dechen Nyingpo
14	Dhungkar Rinpoche Lobsang Trinley
15	Jetsun Geshe Yeshe Wangchug
16	Geshe Yeshe Tobden

By translating teachings of Buddha into commentary, written text on development and History of Buddhism, Medicine and Astrology etc, they spread the teachings of Buddha like the brilliant rays of the sun.

In 1959, when Tibet was forcefully occupied by China, many Tibetans managed to escape to India. Due to the compassionate blessing of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and kindness of Government of India, our monks who managed to escape and survived formed the monastery along with the other monasteries at Buxa, an old British prison complex in the state of Assam. They stayed there for ten years and finally in 1969, 13th of December, all monks at Buxa moved and settled down at Bylakuppe, Mysore District, Karnataka State in South India. Monks of Sera Mey Monastery also settled down at Bylakuppe. From then there have been two different Sera Monasteries, one in our Father land and another one in India.

To hold and spread the teachings of Buddha, the monastery admitted many new junior monks to study the religious discourses through different classes and in turn spread the teachings of Buddha.

Beginning from 80th lineage Abbot Shung Dhapo Tritul Rinpoche the first Abbot of Sera Mey monastery in India, the present 90th abbot of Sera Mey Monastery is Geshe Ngawang Jorden.

Jetsun Geshe Yeshe Wangchug



By the power of the whole and complete rays of wisdom,
You cleared the horde darkness caused by ignorance,
I pray to you Holy spiritual teacher, Who brightens the original precepts of
"Noble Dignaga and Glorious Dharmakirti".

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



H. E. Pobhor Ngawang Dakpa



**H. E. Shungpa Dhakpa
Tritrul Rinpoche**



H. E. Pobhor Tenpa Gyaltzen



H.E. Gyalrong Ngawang Theckchok

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



H.E. Kongpo Bangri Rinpoche



H.E. Kongpo Jampa Donyoe



H. E. Pobhor Lobsang Ngodup



H.E. Gyalrong Lobsang Tharchin

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



**H.E. Gyuedmey Khensur
Pobhor Gosok Rinpoche**



H.E. Pobhor Lobsang Jamyang



H. E. Pobhor Lobsang Rabga



**H.E. Gyutoe Khensur Pobhor
Nagawang Jorden**

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



**H.E. Gyuedmey Khensur
Thewo Trinley Topgye**



**H.E. Gyutoe Khensur
Pobhor Tenzin Sherab**



**H.E. Gyutoe Lama Uze Marnyung
Thupten Tenzin**



**H.E. Gyume Lama Uze Shungpa
Lobsang Phende**

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

The details of His Holiness the Dalai Lamas visits to Sera Mey Monastery

- 1 In year 1974, the monks had performed different religious activities of the monastery in a prayer hall with an earthen-roof for four years.
- 2 In year 1978, the new prayer hall was completed with the design of old customs.

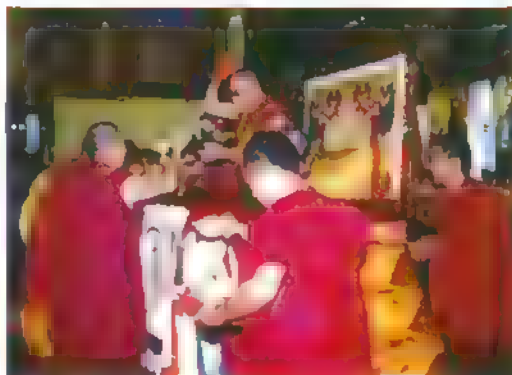


1974-1978

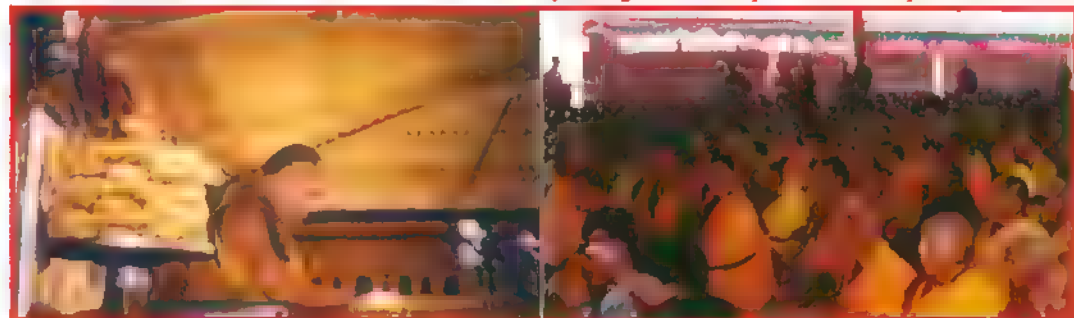
Old Prayer Hall

1978-2002

- 3 In year 1980, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited our new prayer hall and gave teachings on the text called "an expression of praise to ominous incidents". From then religious activities were performed in that prayer hall for about twenty years.



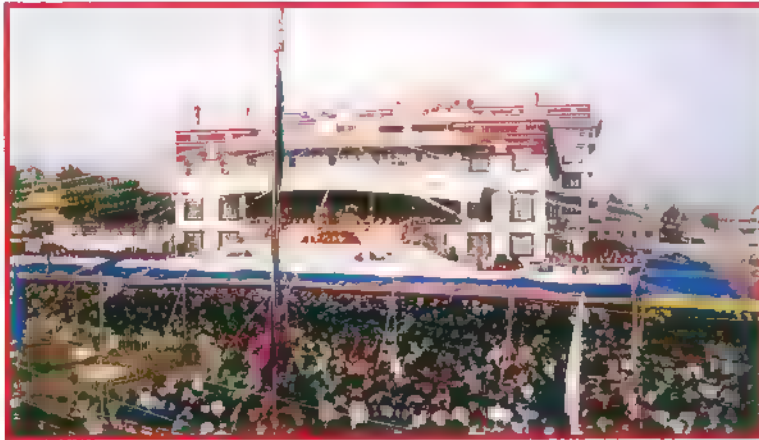
Opening Ceremony of New Prayer Hall in 1978



Opening Ceremony of New Debate Compound in 1997

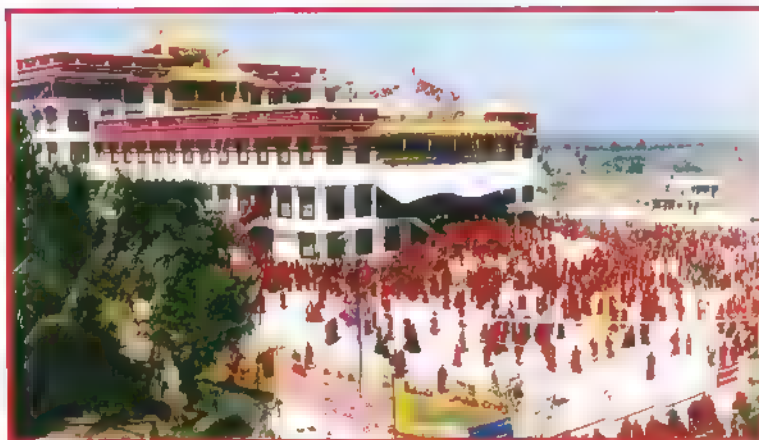
A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

- 4 In year 1997, His Holiness the Dalai Lama performed the opening ceremony with blessings to our new debate compound and gave teachings on "Three principal aspects of the path and ground of good qualities-a prayer text" to Sera Mey monks and also for monks from different monasteries.



Opening Ceremony of New Prayer Hall

- 5 On 26th November 2002, the construction of third prayer hall was completed. His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Sera Mey monastery for the opening ceremony and gave teachings on text called "The great treatise on the two truths" by JheTsongkhapa.





His Holiness the Dalai Lama with MLA K. Venkatesh & Finance Minister P.G.R. Sindhia

- 6 In year 2004, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Sera Mey monastery and we got an opportunity to celebrate fifteenth anniversary of His Holiness receiving the Nobel Peace Prize at the compound of our new prayer hall. His Holiness the Dalai Lama also gave full-ordination vows to the monks from Sakya, Kagyud, Nyingma and three largest Gelugpa monasteries.



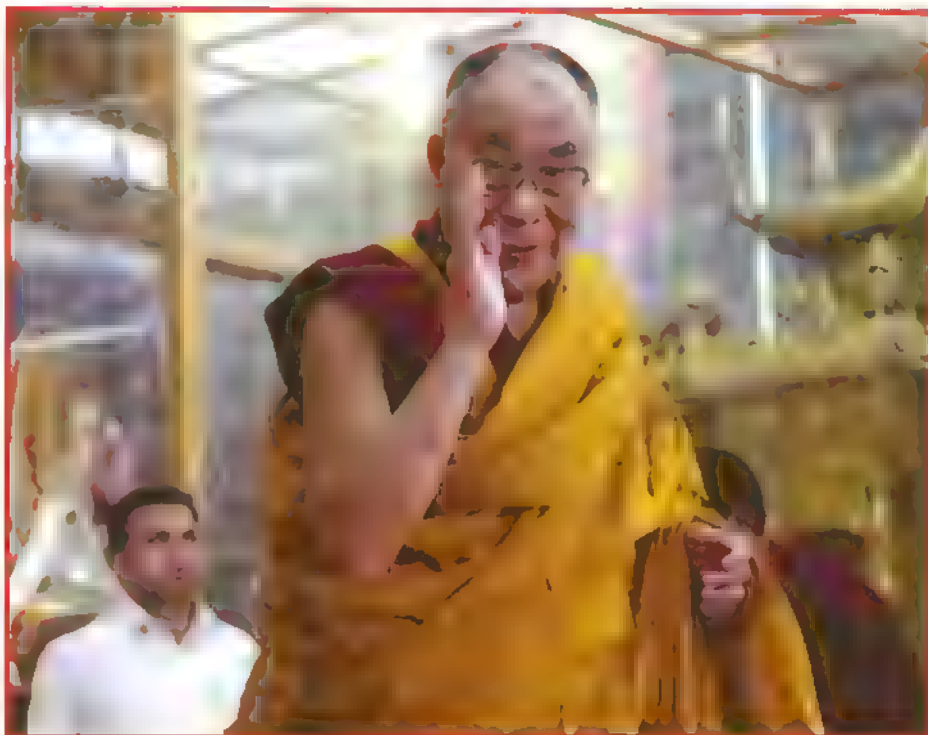
Tibetan Cultural Dance



15th Anniversary of Conferment of Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

- 7 On 11th January 2007, His Holiness the Dalai Lama gave teaching on Jangchup Lamdron "Lamp of the path of Enlightenment" and gave long life initiation and lectures to monks and for the public on 12th January.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Sera Mey Monastery 2007

- 8 On 1st March 2009, His Holiness the Dalai Lama gave teachings on the instructions of vows and consent of the Medicinal Buddha.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama giving consent of the Medical Buddha.

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

- 9 In year 2010, when His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited our new prayer hall, we got an opportunity to offer Long Live request with Tibetan people and government in Exile.



**Offering Long Live request to His Holiness the Dalai Lama
with Tibetan people and government in Exile.**



The details of annual extraordinary programs

- 1) On Tibetan New Year celebration day, we have early morning tea at our prayer hall and after tea monks will go to greet and get blessing from monastery abbot, re-incarnated lamas and teachers.



Morning Tea During Tibetan New Year

- 2) The great monlam festival will began on 8th day of Tibetan New Year. Both monasteries, Sera Mey and Sera Jhe will perform monlam festival together in Sera Thekchenling main prayer hall. During monlam festival, the newly conferred Geshe Lharampas from three main monasteries "Sera, Drepung and Gaden" will answer questions posed by scholars on five major texts.

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- 3) The beginning of the year's debate session is on the 26th day of Tibetan New year. There are evening debate conversations in every house.



Debate Conversation with Newly Geshe Tsogrampa

- 4) There are two Geshe Tsogrampa celebrations and offerings on 29th and 30th day of Tibetan New year.
- 5) The first debate session will end by reciting dedication prayers on 18th day of second Tibetan Lunar month.



Debate Conversation with Newly Summer Geshe

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

- 6) On 6th day of third Tibetan lunar month, the disciplinarian will announce the beginning of the Spring Debate session.
- 7) Spring Debate session begins on the 8th day of the third Tibetan lunar month. There is a debate competition in every house on 9th and 10th of this month.
- 8) There are two days of Geshe celebrations and offerings for monks on 11th and 12th of third Tibetan lunar month.



Chanting Leader

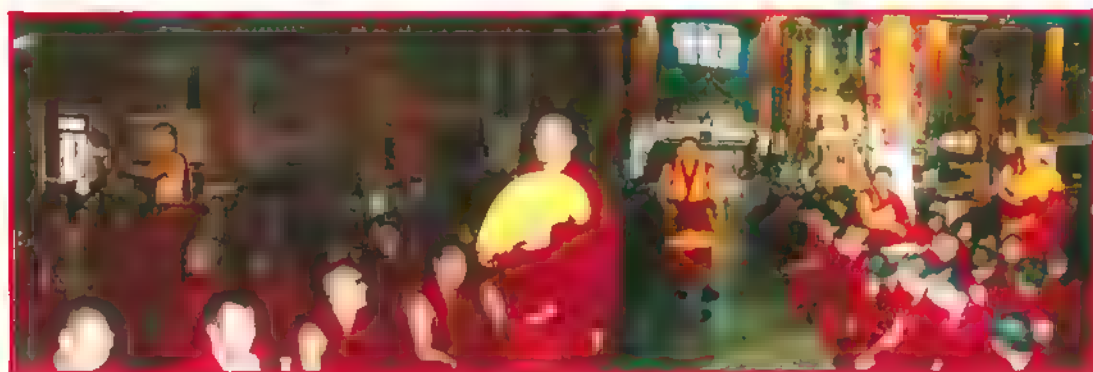


Monks Debating



Disciplinarian granting the position of the Rigchung and Rigchen

- 9) Spring debate session will end on 7th day of the fourth Tibetan lunar month. Monks will recite auspicious expressions and dedication prayers during the morning debate session. Also on one fine day of this month the disciplinarian will grant Rigchung and Rigchen position of the Defendant and Opponent on the topic from the text of Prajnaparamita treatise.



Rigchen Debate Conversation

- 10) Summer debate session begins from 17th day of fourth Tibetan lunar month to 1st day of fifth Tibetan lunar month.
- 11) From 1st day of fifth Tibetan lunar month, there will be debate conversation in every house with scholars who are granted Rigchung.

- 12) The great summer debate session begins on 17th of fifth Tibetan lunar month. There are debate competitions in every house on evenings of 18th and 19th. Also there are Summer Rigram Geshe celebrations and offerings for monks on the 20th of this month. The Geshes receive certificates of completion of their studies on the five major texts.



Summer Rigram Geshe

- 13) The basic debate session of one year will end by reciting the dedication prayers during the morning session on 15th day of sixth Tibetan lunar month.
- 14) The forty five days summer retreat or summer residence in religious confinement begins from 15th day of sixth Tibetan lunar month to 30th of seventh Tibetan lunar month. During this period monks are not allowed to go beyond the marked boundaries of the monasteries and observe additional rules and regulations to their regular routine.

- 15) Rigchung debate conversation starts from 25th of sixth Tibetan Lunar month. According to the results of the three years of debate examinations, the disciplinarian will grant the position of Defendant and Opponent to sixteen suitable scholars in the present class to debate on a given subject from Prajnaparamita treatise. Prior to the Rikchung



Rigchung Debate Conversation

Conversation each pair of scholars have to attend debate conversations of every class and of all the thirteen different houses for eight days. The scholar will receive a degree marking the completion of the studies on Prajnaparamita treatise.

- 16) From first day of seventh Tibetan lunar month, there will be a two days Rigchen alternatively debate conversation on Vinaya "Monastic Discipline" and Madhyamika "the middle way treatise" between two scholars from each Sera Mey and Sera Jhe monastery.

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

- 17) Summer debate session begins from 17th and goes on up to 29th of seventh Tibetan Lunar month.
- 18) The ceremony of lifting of the added restrictions is from 30th of seventh Tibetan Lunar month. There are seven days holidays for observing strong summer retreat acceptance. The three basic ritual or ceremonies of monks are 1) By-monthly restoration and confession ceremony, 2) summer or monsoon season retreat 3) The ceremony of lifting restrictions after the completion of summer retreat.

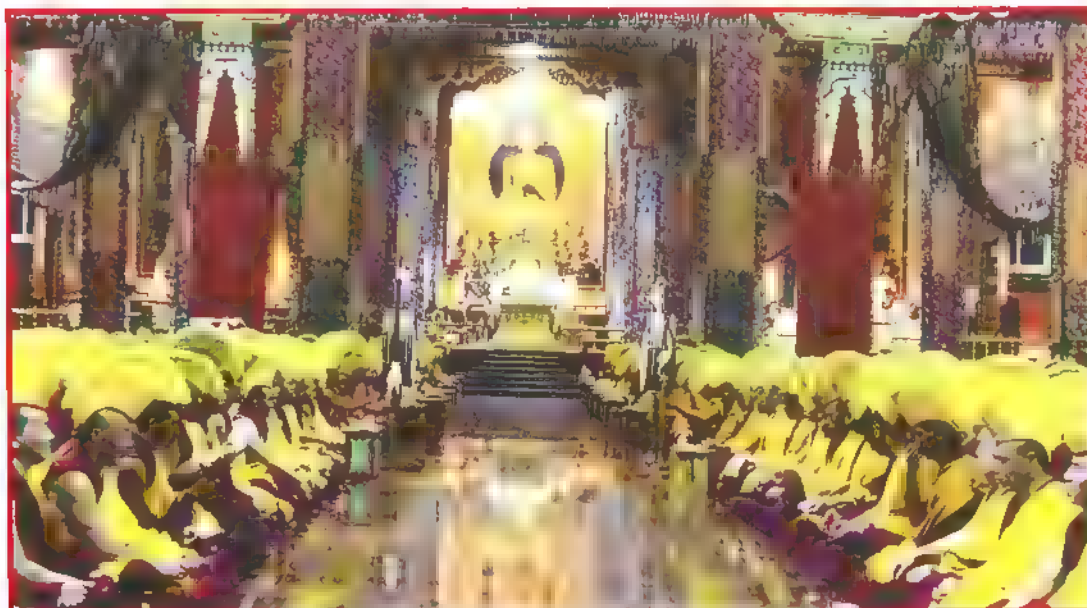


Light Offering during Medicine Buddha Ritual Prayer

- 19) Beginning of Medicine Buddha Ritual Performing is from 8th day of the eighth Tibetan lunar month. There are seven days Medicine Buddha Ritual Prayer on 11th of the eighth Tibetan lunar month. During this week monks will recite Medicine Buddha text with melody set during the reign of King Dhemmo Deleg Gyatso. There are four sessions per day doing prayer for all past and present mother sentient beings.



Medicine Buddha Mandala



Performing Medicine Buddha Ritual Prayer

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

- 20) Autumn debate session begins from 17th of ninth Tibetan lunar month and there will be a two day break on the 18th and 19th. There are Winter Geshe debate conversations and ceremonies on the 20th of this month. Newly conferred Geshe will get certificates of accomplished studies on five major texts. There are offerings of meals from current Geshe.



Winter Geshe Debate Conversation

- 21) Winter debate sessions begin from the 17th of the eleventh Tibetan lunar month and there are two evenings of debate competition in every house on the 18th and 19th of this month. From the 20th, there are newly conferred Geshe Lharampa debate conversations and ceremonies. Newly conferred Geshe Lharampa will get certificates of accomplishments in studies on five major texts and for having passed all six years of Geluk examinations.



Geshes Lharampa Debate Conversation



Bathing Buddha Ritual Ceremony

- 22) Beginning from 25th of the eleventh Tibetan lunar month, there are seven days of religious ceremonies of Maitreya Buddha, established by Desi Sangyal Gyatso during the reign of His Holiness the fifth Dalai Lama of Tibet, starting from early morning 2:00 hours, comprising of four sessions per day. During each session monks will recite the prayers and count the mantras assured by Maitreya Buddha for the sake of all sentient beings to attain rebirth in the holy place. The prayers will be recited through the monastery's special melodies under the responsibility of the chant leader and chosen monks with good voices and recitation skills.



Religious Ceremonies of Maitreya Buddha

- 23) The debate sessions end with the recitation of the dedication prayers during the morning session on the 16th day of the twelfth Tibetan lunar month. On the 29th of the twelfth Tibetan lunar month, the chanting leader and selected monks with good voices and recitation skills will do the Torkyag ritual prayers for the sake of World Peace, Buddha's teaching and Tibetan Government in exile. The former are the ancient customs of Tibet which we are performed to ensure we preserve them from collapsing.



Torkyag Ritual Prayer

Annual Exam of Monastery.

- 1) **Oral test:** Every year there are two oral tests, one held in summer and one held in winter. The summer oral test begins on 8th of 7th Tibetan lunar month and the test in winter begins on 8th of 11th Tibetan Lunar month. The scholars have to give the test on the chapter from five Major texts, four root texts, Vinaya "the monastic rules", Abhidharma "the treasure of wisdom, the text between general and significance etc.



Oral Test

There are some scholars who have memorized about 2000 pages and as a minimum every scholar needs to memorize at least 50 pages. The scholars awarded first, second and third position in the oral test will wear yellow religious robe and cap and receive their certificates and prizes during the prayer session. There are special prizes and certificates for those monks who memorized the texts between general and significance.



Awarding certificates and presents to the scholars awarded 1st, 2nd & 3rd position in the oral test.

- 2) **Writing Test:** Tibetan Grammar examination begins from the 25th day of 5th Tibetan lunar month. Also before exam, there are two months of tuitions on Tibetan Grammar. The senior students have to



Writing Test

give a test on Madhyamika, Prajnaparamita, Vinaya, Abhidharma etc. plus grammar History of Gelukpa Tradition, "Phatoed" Praise of the Buddha, Trendrel Todpa "Root text in Subtitles". The junior monks being novice students will have hand-writing and "Legshe Jonwang" the root grammar in thirty verses as part of their exams.



Debate Test

- 3) **Debate Test:** Debate Test begins from the 1st day of ninth Tibetan lunar month. This is the most important examination of our monastery. The scholars will debate on the subject given by examiner. There will be two different sets of marks for debating and answering. Students are awarded prizes from the marks from debating and writing test.

Annual Special Activities.

- 1) After Tibetan New Year the Butter Lantern Festival falls on the 15th day of First Tibetan lunar month. During day time people come to pray at monastery while at night there is a lantern show. Various lanterns with butter sculptures shaped in the image of deities, animals, plants, and human figures are displayed. This attracts people from the neighboring areas who appreciate them too. There is also a Tibetan cultural dance show by the local people and students. The program gives great joy to participants and viewers throughout the night.



Prayer during Special Event

- 2) There are special offerings to the monks from the Administration Office of our monastery on 15th of fourth Tibetan lunar month and during special events monks recite the text of prayers through melody. There is a special offering by monastery administration during Guru Puja Tsog Offering on 10th and 25th day of every Tibetan lunar month.



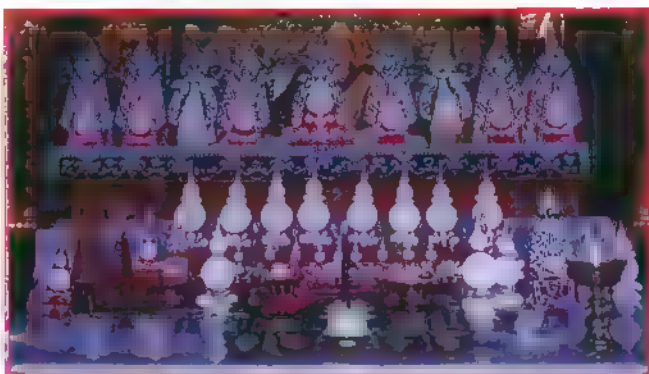
Light Offering on Death Anniversary of Khedrup Tenpa Dhargyal

- 3) The death anniversary of Khedrup Tenpa Dhargyal the main writer of our monastery's philosophy text is on the 14th day of Fifth Tibetan lunar month. There is a Guru Puja Tsog Offering at our monastery and every home will make light offering. Also there is debate session for an hour at Sera Lachi the main temple of Sera Monastery.



Guru Puja Tsog Offering on Death Anniversary of Khedrup Tenpa Dhargyal

- 4) On 15th day of Fifth Tibetan lunar month there is a traditional festival called Zamling Chisang or Universal Prayer Day to celebrate Guru Rinpoche's subjugation of the local deities and the founding



Torma offering for Dharma protectors

of the Samye Monastery. Monks of our monastery perform special ritual prayer by reciting confession and black tea offering prayers for dharma protectors "**Gonpo**" Mahakala; "**Palden Lhamo**" the goddess of terrific aspect famous for her bloody and licentious deeds; "**Choegyal**" Dharma Raza; "**Gonkar** and **Namse**" the wealth deities; "**Chamsing**" a terrific female guardian deity and "**Thoa**" one of the main protector of our monastery.



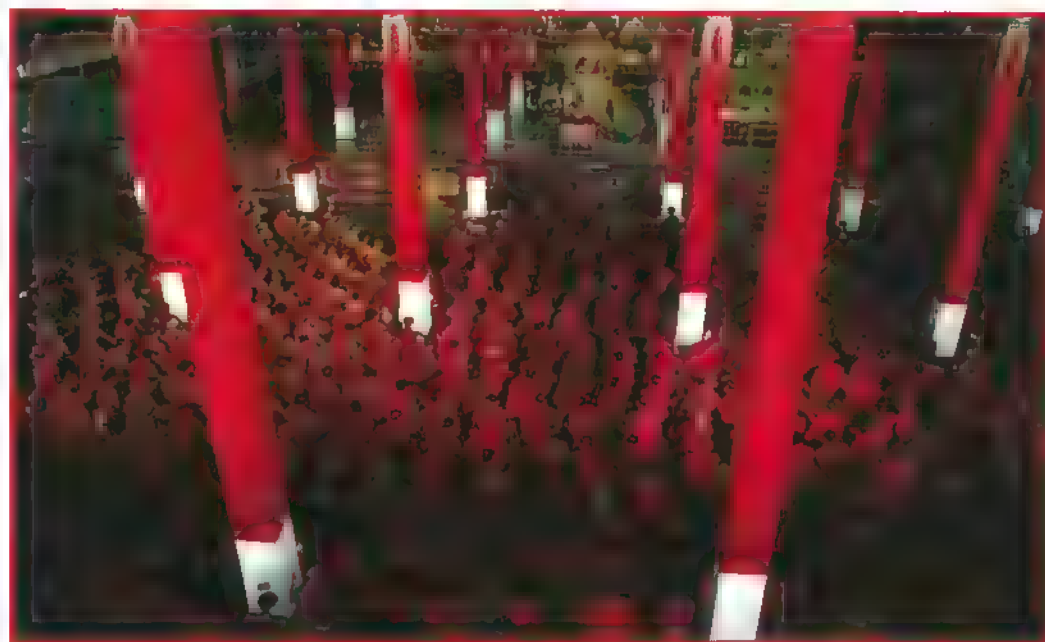
Ritual Prayer for Dharma Protectors

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



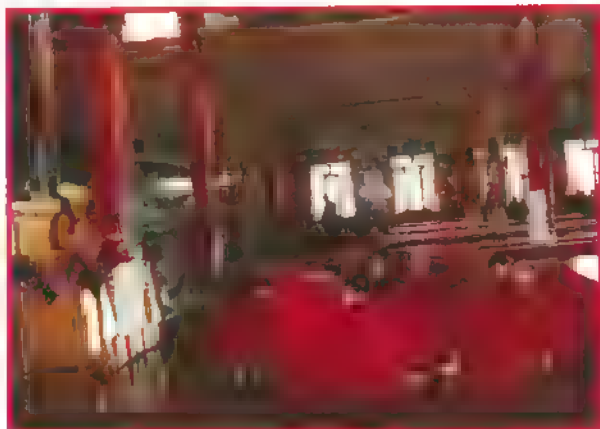
H.E. Gyalrong Khensur Rinpoche Ngawang Theckchok Giving Teaching on Lamrim

- 5) 'Choekhor Duechen' commemoration of Shakyamuni's first teachings at Bodh-Gaya to his five excellent disciples is on the 4th day of sixth Tibetan lunar month. On this very special day, our monastery Abbot or Ex-Abbot will give teachings on **Lamrim** "the great treatise on the stages of



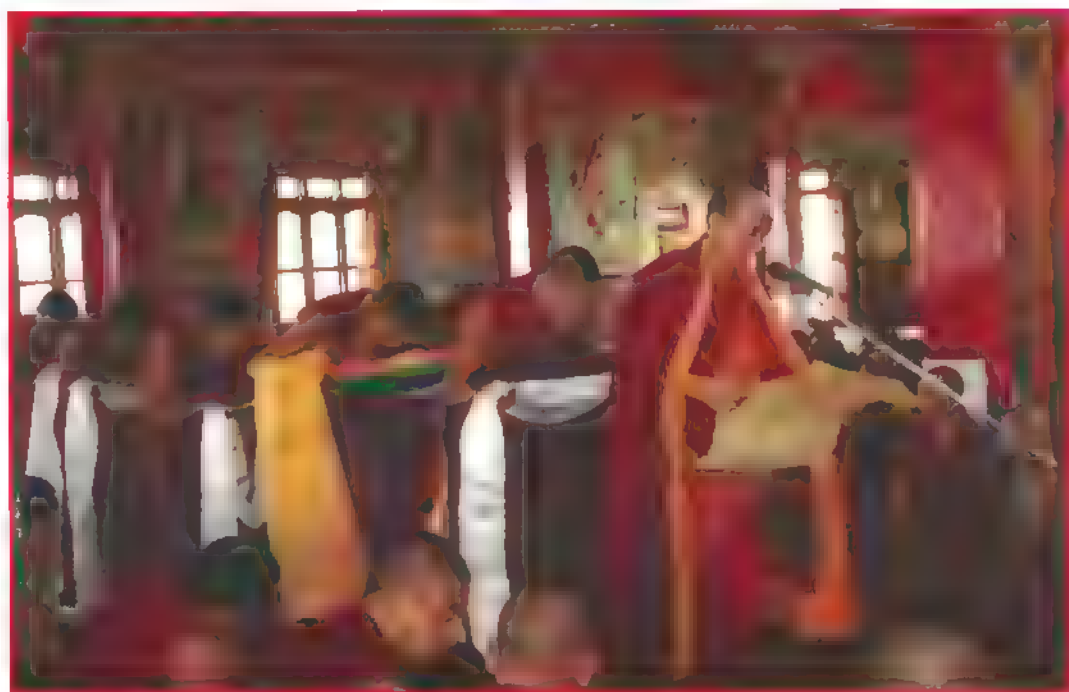
Giving Oral Recitation Test to Abbot

the path of enlightenment to the scholars of our monastery and the disciplinarian will explain and read fifteen pages on the details of monastic rules during debate session. Through observing the monastic rules all scholars have to study in depth the great treatises of philosophy



Giving Oral Recitation Test to Abbot

and pay their respects to the senior monks. They always have to be respectful to all people. The Chant Leader leads the prayer through our monastery's special prayer rules. Especially during the request from outside sponsors, the Prayer Leader will lead the ritual prayers as requested by the sponsor.



The disciplinarian reading the record of offering

Members of Monastery

- 1) **The Abbot:** The Abbot of our monastery is specially appointed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. After celebrating the enthronement ceremony, the new abbot takes responsibility on religious and political activities of the monastery.
- 2) **The Disciplinarian:** The duty of disciplinarian comes by turn to each Lharampa Geshe.
- 3) **The Chant Leader:** The Chant Leader is appointed by the Abbot, one humble monk who is good in prayers and has a good voice for chanting.



Abbot, Disciplinarian, Chant Leader

- 4) **Administrator (Chanzoe):** Period for administrators and secretary are for three years. After every three years there will be new administrator appointed by the members of thirteen houses from the names selected by our monastery's monks. By looking after the main office of our monastery they have to settle new opinion and plan for the welfare of monastery. They also have to take responsibility of every meeting at our monastery.

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



Secretaries and Administrators



Office of Administrator

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

- 5) Sections: Also there are different sections under monastery administration: 1) Library and Printing Press under Library Project 2) Social Service Dispensary 3) ACIP Computer Section 4) Education Development Committee 5) Sermey Thoesam School and Tailoring Section under school project 6) Scholarship Project Trust 7) Unified Food Fund



Sera Mey Library



Group Photo



Library Incharge

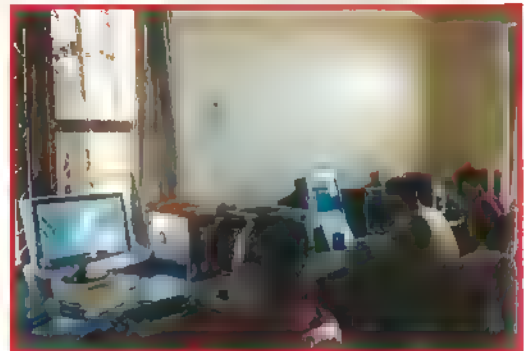


OFFICE

Library Incharge

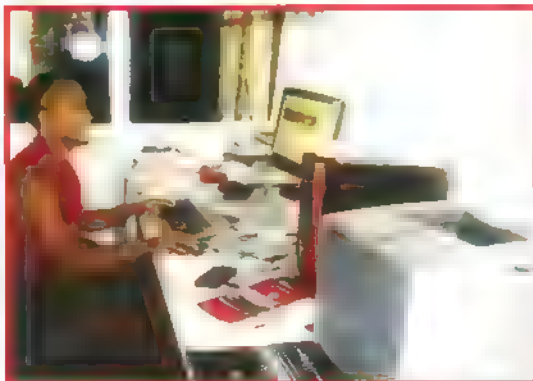


Reading Section



Computer Section

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



Computer Designer



CD Section



Sera Mey Library Printing Press



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Sera Mey Social Service Dispensary



Group Photo Social Service Members

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



Free Checkup



Doctor with Rechar Gere



Out Patients



Tibetan Doctor



X-ray Room



Blood Checkup



Tibetan Medicine

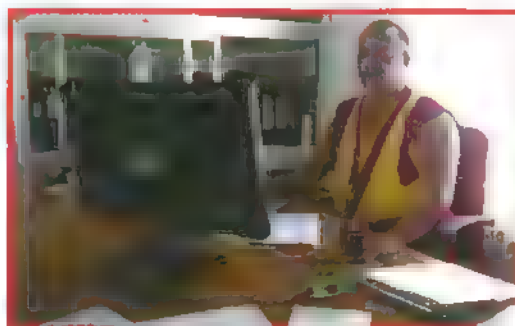


Indian Medicine

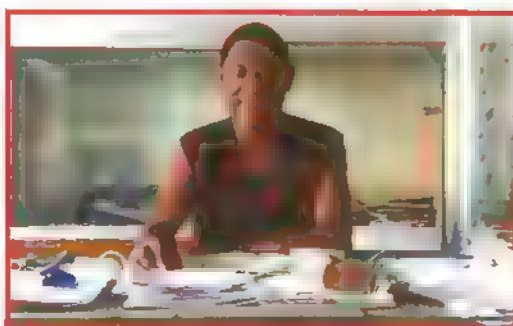
A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



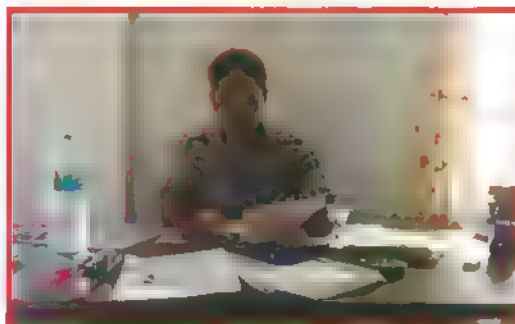
Group Photo of Sera Mey Thoesam School



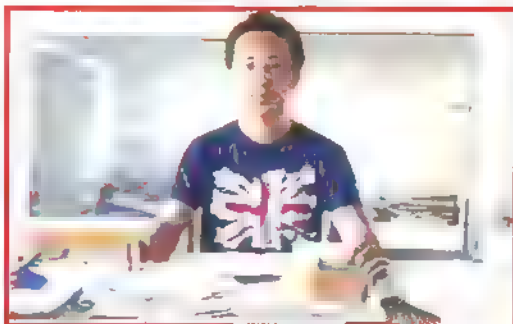
Principal



Head Master



Staff



Secretary

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

Group photos of different classes



Class I



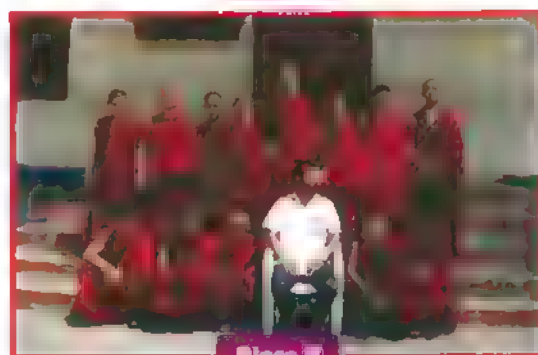
Class II



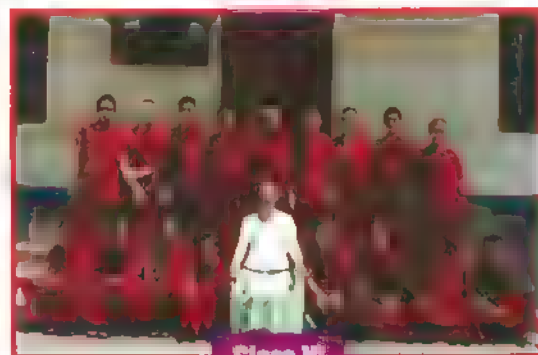
Class III



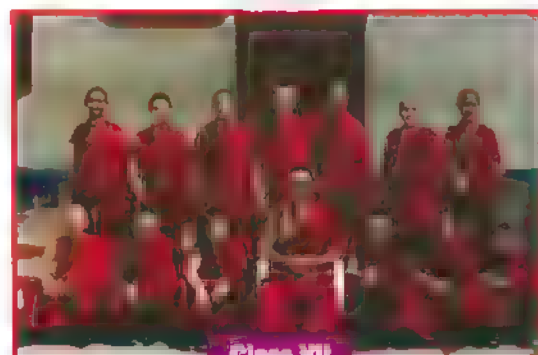
Class IV



Class V



Class VI



Class VII



Class VIII

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



Morning Assembly



Staffs & Teachers



Evening Recitation



Class Room



School Kitchen



School Tailoring

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Education Development Committee



Scholarship Project Trust



ACIP Computer Section

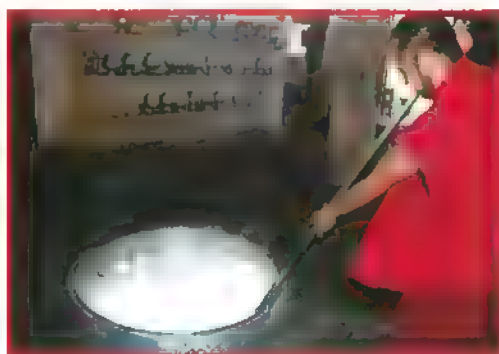
Unified Food Fund



Members of Unified Food Fund



Morning Tea



Rice for Lunch



Lentil for Lunch



Bread Food dinner

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



Vegetables for Dinner



Store Room



Carrying Food to Home



Baking Bread



Store Room



Preparing Food



Utility Room



Filtered Water Store

Daily Activities of Scholarship.

- 1) Every morning monks have to attend morning-prayer session at main Sera Lachi Prayer Hall or Sera Mey Prayer Hall.
- 2) After prayer, at about 7 a.m. scholars will return back to their home and start memorizing philosophy chapter.
- 3) Morning debate session will began at 9 a.m. There will be chanting and debate practice. When there is no debate practice, scholars will go to their teacher's room to learn debating.
- 4) Lunch is at 11 a.m. When there is lunch offering, all monks will eat together at main prayer hall.
- 5) There is a short break for rest after lunch.
- 6) Between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. scholars will go to their tutor's homes to learn philosophy, read philosophy texts and learn Tibetan Grammar in their own rooms.
- 7) Dinner is at 5 p.m.
- 8) Evening debate session starts from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Group Photo of Sera Mey Monks

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule

- 9) At 9.30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Scholars will do practice on repetition from memory at the boundary of their homes. Every Wednesday and Monday they will do recitation on the text of Ngontog Gen "Ornament for Clear Realization" and Uma Jugpa, "Introduction to the Middle Way (Madhyamakavatara)".
- 10) Bed time is at about 12 a.m.
- 11) Every year the senior Geshe class will exercise a debate practice on Vinaya 'the text on monastic discipline' for a month in winter, daily from 5 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. and also during spring in the second Tibetan Lunar month, there will be a debate conversation for a month on the root text of Abhidharma 'The Treasure of Wisdom'.
- 12) All senior scholars have to attend gelug examination for six years to Achieve Geshe Lharampa degree.



Winter Debate Competition



Thao - Main Protector of Sera Mey Monastery

Khangtsen or House

We have in all thirteen different houses or sections in our monastery. Any new comer from Tibet may enroll in the houses based on which regions they come from and those from India are at liberty to enroll in any house of their choice.



Shungpa Khangtsen



Pobhor Khangtsen



Tsawa Khangtsen



Yerpa Khangtsen



Kongpo Khangtsen



Marnyung Khangtsen

A Brief History & An Overview Schedule



Tsador Khangtsen



Thepo Khangtsen



Tsangpa Khangtsen



Gungru Khangtsen



Rongpo Khangtsen



Minyag Khangtsen



Gyalrong Khangtsen

Conclusion

May the teachings of Lord Buddha progress, spread and flourish world wide.

May His Holiness the Dalai Lama have a long life and spontaneously accomplish all his wishes.

May the all Holders of the teachings of Lord Buddha have a long life and may their activities flourish.

May peace prevail on earth.

May all wishes of our sponsors come true.

May Tibet be free of the Chinese Communist rule.

May the religious activities in our monastery flourish.



Dedication Prayer

Surrounded by the fence of shrub,
Sera Mey Monastery in Sera Thekchenling
May remain till end of Samsara
For the sake of all mother Sentient Beings.

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Winter Debate Competition



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